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Intersex Matters

By Peter Trinkl, Guest Columnist

As an intersex person, I have been asked to write a short article for the Lambda Letters Project newsletter. There are many talented writers in the intersex world, and I believe that intersex writers offer a unique perspective on many social issues. I am appreciative that LLP has included intersex along with LGBT issues. It's one thing to include "the term" but quite another to address *our issues*.

In the early 20th century, the term "intersex" emerged in the medical profession to replace the older term "hermaphrodite." To be intersex is to be born, or grow up, with a sexual anatomy that is socially judged not to be "standard" for male or female anatomy. This can include "nonstandard" reproductive organs, sexual anatomy, and sex chromosomes. There are many different intersex conditions.

Although some intersex conditions are rare, intersex people are not uncommon overall. A very conservative estimate of the frequency of ambiguous intersex births puts the number at about 1 in 2,000 births. However, many intersex conditions are not evident until puberty. There are more than 100,000 intersex people living in the United States and many do not know they are intersex.

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Why the State Budget Matters

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

When it comes to state legislation, most of us seem to care most about bills that protect our rights or fight some particular disease. Often our eyes glaze over when we start hearing about the state budget. But that budget can have a tremendous impact on the specific issues we all care about. This article highlights the parts of the budget that affect the issues we care about.

Health Issues

Our community's advocates asked for several things of importance to gay men and men who have sex with men. (Some men who have sex with other men don't consider themselves gay.)

For example, we lobbied for \$10 million of new money to prevent and treat methamphetamine addiction. Meth addiction is a growing problem in the gay community and for men who have sex with men. Those who do it while high on the substance are more likely to engage in unsafe sex.

The community also lobbied for \$6.5 million in new money for HIV education and prevention. Requests were also made for \$272,000 for additional staff in the California

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Painless Giving

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist


There's an easy way for you to give money to Lambda Letters without spending one cent of your own money.

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To make GoodSearch searching even more convenient, their website provides simple instructions for adding GoodSearch functionality both to the Internet Explorer and Firefox browsers.

Using GoodSearch doesn't cost you a cent, so search away! 

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters Collected

June, 2006	17,381 letters
In all of 2006	146,948 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

June, 2006	\$11,157
In all of 2006	\$48,541

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Our Mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. We urge elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

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In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684.

In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212.

The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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Tell the Governor: Get It Right This Time

By Shirin Buckman, Legislative Analyst

Please ask Governor Schwarzenegger not to veto AB 1056 when it comes to his desk. Assemblymember Judy Chu's bill, AB 220, which was similar to AB 1056, was vetoed by the governor last year when he stated that public schools should voluntarily adopt a tolerance curriculum.

The new school tolerance bill establishes a Tolerance Education Pilot Program to teach tolerance and intergroup relations in public schools. Schools would be encouraged to team with civil rights organizations and local human rights commissions to address discrimination within our culture.

Ten schools would be selected statewide and receive a one-time grant of \$25,000 to include these subjects as part of a social studies curriculum. After three years, the school would be required to submit a study on the effectiveness of the program.

Personal experience stresses to me how important tolerance education is. Once while working on a campaign for a pro-gay candidate, I contacted the chair of a Los Angeles high school's history department. While asking him if my candidate could speak to his class, he asked me about her views on LGBTI issues. I answered that she unwaveringly supported the LGBTI community. He promptly said that his students did not want to hear that and hung up. I later spoke to many of his students and they said that they too were unwavering in support of the LGBTI community and that he teaches them with very conservative viewpoints. Is this the sort of history chair who will "voluntarily" teach tolerance education? Is he the only one in California with these adverse opinions?

In vetoing last year's bill, Governor Schwarzenegger also cited the "duplication of efforts" in tolerance education. Currently the state establishes a Center for

the Excellence on the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, Human Rights, and Tolerance to provide teachers the training and resources to teach tolerance effectively. In addition, the State Board of Education has

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Support Gender-Responsive Rehabilitation for Female Offenders

By Joy Fisher, Legislative Analyst

As of March this year, 11,437 women were incarcerated in California and approximately 12,000 more were on parole. These are minuscule numbers in comparison with the numbers of men incarcerated and on parole. Besides sheer numbers, there are great differences in the profiles of male and female offenders. For example, the average female inmate is a mother in her mid-30s and a substance abuser with mental health needs who has been a victim of abuse.

Despite these differences, the vast majority of programs in the four women's prisons are identical to those offered in men's prisons. The very design of the high security prisons themselves, often in geographical isolation, reveal a serious lack of awareness of female prisoners' issues, risks, and needs. In the policies, practices, and regulations that govern these women—whose crimes are overwhelmingly nonviolent—there is little recognition of the very different nature of criminal experience for women.

Research has shown that women and girl offenders are less likely to be managed effectively in systems based on male behavior. By institutionalizing these women without gender-responsive treatment, their problems are not addressed and their options for change are diminished. Research supports the need for a different approach to the management of female prisoners.

Last year the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) created the Gender Responsive Strategies Commission to advise CDCR on a reform plan for providing a safe and productive institutional environment for female offenders.

Assembly Bill 2066, introduced by Assemblymembers Sally Lieber (D-San Jose), Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), and Carol Liu (D-Pasadena), would codify the recommendations of the Gender Commission.

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Support CalWORKs Reform

By Shirin Buckman, Legislative Analyst

Please ask your senator to support AB 2466 when it comes up for a vote on the Senate floor. The purpose of AB 2466 is to help CalWORKs recipients save money.

The bill does this in two ways. First, it excludes funds in specified retirement and educational savings accounts from being considered as income or resources for purposes of CalWORKs eligibility and benefits. Second, it adds financial management education as an allowable welfare-to-work activity for people participating in the CalWORKs program and receiving its benefits.

CalWORKs already excludes the value of a family's home, automobile, life insurance policy, and pension funds from the determination of eligibility for benefits. In addition, state law allows families to retain up to \$5,000 for specified purposes: education or job training, a business start-up, or purchase of a home. However, IRAs and other retirement accounts, such as 401(k)s and college savings accounts, are counted as assets.

AB 2466 seeks to exclude those savings from a determination of eligibility. By doing so, CalWORKs recipients will be more successful in saving money for the long term. According to the author of the bill, Assemblymember Lynn Daucher (R-Brea), AB 2466 "promotes the self-sufficiency of CalWORKs families by increasing their ability to accumulate assets and obtain financial counseling."

In addition, AB 2466 includes financial management training as part of the welfare-to-work curriculum. A critical tool for helping CalWORKs participants move toward self-sufficiency is sound financial management training that helps participants recognize the importance of building savings, establishing good credit, opening bank accounts, and avoiding predatory lending.

Other states include financial management training as part of their welfare-to-work programs. These classes have been very effective in educating low-income people on wise spending, budgeting, and investing. This resulted in better financial stability and has

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Support Needle Exchange Programs

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

AB 2076 by Assemblymember John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) would codify current state policy, which allows state general funds for HIV prevention to support locally authorized needle-exchange programs. It would also allow these programs to use state funds to purchase sterile needles and syringes, which the state does not currently permit. The bill also specifies that local health officers must include information about the use of public funds for needle-exchange programs in their annual reports to the local governing jurisdiction that authorized the needle-exchange program.

Current State Department of Health Services (DHS) policy allows state HIV prevention and education funds to be used for costs associated with authorized needle-exchange programs, except for the purchase of sterile hypodermic needles and syringes. The available sources of funding for the purchase of sterile needles and syringes have been decreasing.

According to the state Office of AIDS, injection drug use continues to be one of the most prevalent risk factors for new HIV and AIDS cases in California. An annual report issued by the Office of AIDS within the California Department of Health Services reveals that sharing of contaminated syringes and other injection equipment is linked to 20 percent of all reported AIDS cases in the state through 2003. State data suggests that over 1,500 new syringe-sharing HIV infections occur annually. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that it costs roughly \$195,188 to provide lifetime care to a person infected with HIV.

The legislature has responded to the spread of HIV among injection drug users by adopting AB 136 (Chapter 762, Statutes of 1999), permitting localities to determine whether or not to operate clean needle and syringe exchange programs. Many localities are now operating such programs. These programs have been shown to reduce significantly the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne infections among injection drug users, their sexual partners, and their


children. Moreover, these programs have been effective in moving individuals into drug treatment programs and in reducing the number of used needles disposed in public places, which pose a threat to public health and safety.

Recognizing the effectiveness of needle-exchange programs, the legislature passed and the governor signed AB 547 (Chapter 692, Statutes of 2005), which eliminated the statutory requirement of a local emergency declaration by a public entity in order to operate a needle-exchange program.

The federal government prohibits the use of federal funds to support the purchase of sterile hypodermic needles and syringes by clean needle and syringe exchange programs. To date, the state has also prohibited the use of its general funds to purchase these supplies. The ability of clean needle and syringe exchange programs to purchase an adequate supply of sterile hypodermic needles and syringes is essential to California's ability to reduce further the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases and to relieve the public cost for the treatment of these diseases.

The use of state general funds to purchase clean needle and syringes for authorized needle-exchange programs is not unprecedented. Ten states currently expend these funds for this purpose: Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

This bill would substantially aid local efforts to reduce the rate of HIV transmission through injection drug use in California by authorizing the use of state funds for the purchase of clean hypodermic needles and syringes. Any funds that would be expended for clean needles and syringes would come from existing appropriations for state HIV prevention funds. Accordingly, this bill does not increase funding and will, in effect, make counties prioritize how they will expend prevention funds. One of these choices may be to purchase needles and syringes, which could result in significant savings for state-funded health programs.

Please write to your senator and urge him or her to vote for AB 2076. 

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Educate Children About the Role of Filipinos in World War II

By Marty Martinez, Legislative Analyst


When World War II began, the Philippines was a United States territory and the Filipinos were recognized as US nationals. In 1941 President Roosevelt issued a military order calling "into service of the Armed Forces of the US ... all of the organized military forces of the government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines." Thus Filipinos were drafted into the war.

Approximately 142,000 Filipinos fought alongside US soldiers under the American flag and fought the enemy with the same heroism. World War II provided the opportunity for Filipinos to fight for their freedom and prove their loyalty as Americans. They fought bravely under the US flag on US territory against our enemies.

Filipinos played an instrumental role in World War II. Unfortunately, their contributions to our nation have gone mostly unrecognized and undocumented. It is our obligation to educate future generations on the pivotal role that Filipinos played in defining our world. They deserve our recognition and respect in our history books.

Existing law provides instruction in the social sciences for grades 7-12. Currently it is encouraged that curricula contain instruction on the Vietnam War, including the "Secret War" in Laos and the role of Southeast Asians in that war. It is also encouraged that this instruction includes components drawn from personal testimony of Southeast Asians who were involved in the Vietnam War and those who contributed to the war effort on the home front.

AB 1076 by Jerome E. Horton (D-Inglewood) encourages school districts in California to include instruction on the role of Filipinos in World War II as part of their social studies curricula. AB 1076 would allow teachers not only to use instructional materials such as textbooks, but use oral and video archives as well.

Please write to your senator and urge him or her to vote for AB 1076. 

August Legislative Update

August is a partial recess month for the state legislature, which takes a month off from July 7 to August 6. The rest of August is filled with frenetic activity as legislators try to get as many bills as possible passed prior to the final deadline for this year. All bills must be passed and sent to the governor no later than midnight, August 31.

Many of the bills in the list below are in either the Assembly or Senate Appropriations Committee. Any bills expected to cost the state significant money must be approved by the Appropriations Committee before they can be voted on in the full house. Those that do not make it through Appropriations die. The status line for each bill shows where the bill is. If a date for the vote on the bill is known, it is also shown on the status line.

All the bills that we opposed died in their legislative house of origin. Sadly, several that we supported also died in their house of origin. Last month we listed those dead bills in the bill list. The following list shows the bills that we have been tracking and which are still alive.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 1677 (Paul Koretz, D—West Hollywood)
Purpose: To allow nonprofit agencies to distribute condoms in state prisons.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2076 (John Laird, D—Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To allow local governments to use HIV prevention and education general funds received from the state to pay for supplies for needle-exchange programs.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2280 (Mark Leno, D—San Francisco)
Purpose: To require the state to develop a counseling model for all people who receive HIV testing at any publicly funded clinic.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1341 (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To change the deadline currently in place on a law which allows thrift stores selling goods to support programs for people with HIV/AIDS to not charge a sales tax on the goods sold. These thrift stores would be allowed to sell items

without charging sales tax until January 1, 2012.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on August 9.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1471 (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To stipulate that sex education classes in public schools should be complete, accurate, age-appropriate, and should not express bias on any of several bases including sexual orientation.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on August 9.
LLP Position: Support.

SJR 22 (Jackie Speier, D—San Mateo)
Purpose: To ask Congress to approve federal legislation meant to speed the development of a microbicide to prevent the transmission of HIV and other diseases.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support.

Economic Issues

AB 75 (Dario Frommer, D—Glendale)
Purpose: To establish the California Rx Plus State Pharmacy Assistance Program. Any licensed pharmacy or drug manufacturer could enter the program. The state would negotiate drug discounts with them on behalf of people on a limited income.
Status: In the Senate Health Committee. Hearing cancelled by the author.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1778 (Sally Lieber, D—San Jose)
Purpose: To allow parents to prohibit schools from releasing information about the parent's children to US military recruiters.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1835 (Sally Lieber, D—San Jose)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour, effective July 1, 2007, and to \$7.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2008. Minimum wage would be adjusted automatically every January 1 after that, based on inflation.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1851 (Joe Coto, D—San Jose)
Purpose: To delete a deadline in current law that allows participating health, dental, or vision plans to assist people in signing up for the Healthy Families Program. The plans would be allowed to continue doing this.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1971 (Wilma Chan, D—Oakland)
Purpose: Currently health insurance companies

and health care plans are required to provide limited-coverage and less expensive health coverage plans. This is a pilot program to end September 1, 2007. This bill extends the program to 2008. The bill would also require health care service plans and health insurers to sell a standard benefit plan to all individuals, regardless of health status, claims experience, or medical condition, in each geographic region in which the entity makes coverage available. It would also authorize a health care service plan or insurer to pay a fee, to the state, to contribute to the cost of a state insurance plan, instead of providing the standard benefit plan.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2004 (Betty Karnette, D—Long Beach)
Purpose: To suspend Medi-Cal benefits for a juvenile who is sentenced to jail but require the Department of Correction to assure that those benefits are re-established as soon as the youth is released from jail.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2040 (Judy Chu, D—Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require the state to provide summer and Saturday dates for taking the high school exit exam, if money is provided in the state budget.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2192 (Karen Bass, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow certain drug offenders to qualify for CalWORKs benefits under certain conditions.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2334 (Ed Chavez, D—City of Industry)
Purpose: To require janitorial services to register annually with the state and to meet regulations set by the state including certain insurance and licensing requirements. The State Labor Commissioner would post lists of lawfully registered janitorial services on the Internet.
Status: Bill dropped by the author because unions asked for changes that the author found unacceptable.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2339 (Mark Ridley-Thomas, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish the Colorectal Cancer Treatment Program to provide outreach, education, prevention, and treatment of colorectal cancer in low-income men.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2466 (Lynn Daucher, R—Brea)
Purpose: To allow assets in a 401(k), IRA, 403(b), 457 plan, Coverdell ESA, or 529 college

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Legislative Update

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savings program to be excluded when determining whether a person is poor enough to qualify for CalWORKs.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2469 (Noreen Evans, D-Santa Rosa)

Purpose: To require the state to pay counties with 250,000 or fewer residents an amount annually equal to that previously paid by the county for in-home supportive and personal care services provided to people who are qualified aged, disabled, or blind persons on low incomes.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2489 (Mark Leno, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow any county office of education, or consortium of school districts, together with a county office of education, to apply for state grants to pay for operating educational services to foster children. Also would establish a program of higher education grants for foster children.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2495 (Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: This state, under the CalWORKs program, through the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) program, provides aid on behalf of eligible children who are placed in the home of a relative caretaker. This bill augments payments under the Kin-GAP program by amounts equal to the amount of specialized care increment or clothing allowance the child would be eligible for under the AFDC program.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2536 (Cindy Montanez, D-Mission Hills)

Purpose: To apply state laws on eight-hour workdays and 40-hour work weeks, as well as on overtime pay for additional hours worked, to work done by certain personal attendants in the home.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2576 (Hector De La Torre, D-South Gate)

Purpose: To require gas and electric utilities to allow limited-income customers to use one application form to apply for any of the various discount programs for which they may qualify.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2877 (Dario Frommer, D-Glendale)

Purpose: To require the state to achieve cost savings in its public health programs by using more generic drugs.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 160 (Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow undocumented immigrants, who qualify already for in-state tuition at California's public universities and colleges, to qualify also for student aid to pay tuition, provided they meet the other qualifications for such aid.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on August 9.

Position: Support.

SB 778 (Dean Florz, D-Bakersfield)

Purpose: To prohibit banks from charging a fee for cashing a paycheck when the bank issued the check on behalf of an employer.

Status: Failed in the Senate Banking and Finance Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 840 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To provide health insurance for every resident of California.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1124 (Tom Torlakson, D-Concord)

Purpose: To allow certain retired teachers to be rehired as mentors in high-priority schools without losing any pension income.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1162 (Gilbert Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour, effective 60 days after passage of the bill and to \$7.75 per hour, effective July 1, 2007. Minimum wage would be adjusted automatically at intervals to be determined.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1188 (Dean Florez, D-Bakersfield)

Purpose: To prohibit employers from writing paychecks on a bank that would charge a fee for cashing the checks unless the employer reimburses the fee.

Status: Failed in the Assembly Banking and Finance Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1288 (Gilbert Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require Medi-Cal to cover residential and outpatient drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs for minors age 12 or older.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1335 (Nell Soto, D-Ontario)

Purpose: To require annual, unannounced inspection visits of facilities which provide residential care for children who are under the supervision of a county welfare or probation agency.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on August 9.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1383 (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To declare that a student who fails the high school exit exam, but who has completed all the coursework required to graduate from high school, qualifies for a high school equivalency certificate.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1534 (Richard Alarcon, D-Van Nuys)

Purpose: To require several state agencies to work together to create a single low-income program application to cover all services provided to low-income people to assure that they receive all the help for which they qualify.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

LGBTI Issues

AB 606 (Lloyd Levine, D-Van Nuys)

Purpose: To require school districts to establish and publicize an anti-discrimination policy that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on gender identity and sexual orientation, among other things.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1056 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)

Purpose: To require the State Board of Education to integrate instruction on tolerance into existing English language, and social science curriculum. Would establish these requirements as a pilot program in 10 schools.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1160 (Sally Lieber, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To establish court rules that reduce the chance of defendants using panic strategies as a way of evading conviction, or to reduce their sentence in trials for hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Also provides \$125,000 to train prosecutors in responding to defense attorneys who try to use the panic defense.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1207 (Leland Yee, D—San Francisco)
Purpose: To add to the pledge contained in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices that the candidate shall not use gay-bashing or transgender-bashing in their political campaigns.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1897 (Mervyn Dymally, D—Compton)
Purpose: To allow the State Personnel Board to order the state to pay a complainant's reasonable attorney's fees when the state engaged in illegal employment discrimination.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2051 (Rebecca Cohn, D—Campbell)
Purpose: To revise a domestic abuse grant program to include the LGBT community for certain purposes of the grant program. The bill would also require membership on a domestic abuse advisory council to include representatives of the LGBT community. The registration fee for domestic partners would be raised to \$23 to cover the costs of the new programs.
Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee for a vote on August 8.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2386 (Jenny Oropeza, D—Carson)
Purpose: To require the secretary of state to post on his website a list of candidates for public office who have signed a voluntary pledge to abide by a Code of Fair Campaign Practices during an election campaign. Would also require that the pledge be printed in ballot pamphlets and that the pamphlets mention that a list of candidates who took the pledge can be found on the secretary of state's website.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2550 (Sam Blakeslee, R—San Luis Obispo)
Purpose: To require that any qualified member of the California National Guard or a widow, widower, or spouse of a qualified member (but not a domestic partner) be awarded additional preference points for any civil service employment.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support if amended to add domestic partners.

AB 2800 (John Laird, D—Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To ban sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, among others, in housing and housing-related areas.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2920 (Mark Leno, D—San Francisco)
Purpose: To force require the state to require that each area agency on aging include the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors in

their needs assessment and area plans, and require the state to provide technical assistance to the area agencies on aging for the training of all program staff, contractors, and volunteers regarding the unique needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1437 (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To prohibit instruction or school-sponsored activities that reflect adversely upon persons because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1441 (Sheila Kuehl, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To ban sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination in programs operated or funded by the state.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1827 (Carole Migden, D—San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow registered domestic partners to file joint or separate California Income Tax forms.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 432 (Jenny Oropeza, D—Carson)
Purpose: To authorize a new citizen to register and vote at a location designated by the county until the polls close on Election Day.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 680 (Wilma Chan, D—Oakland)
Purpose: To require the state Board of Education to monitor school districts to make sure that, when 15% or more of the pupils enrolled in a public school speak a single primary language other than English, all notices, reports, statements, or records sent to the parent or guardian of the pupil by the school are written in that language and may be responded to either in that language or English.
Status: Assembly concurrence pending on amendments made in the Senate. In the Assembly inactive file.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1076 (Jerome Horton, D—Inglewood)
Purpose: To require that public schools teach children about World War II and the role of Filipinos in that war.
Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2060 (Hector De La Torre, D—South Gate)
Purpose: To require the Department of Community Services and Development to contract with, and allocate funds to, organizations to provide free naturalization services to would-be citizens.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2086 (Mervyn Dymally, D—Compton)
Purpose: To require the Chancellor of California's Community Colleges to encourage community college districts in northern California to expand services to indigenous peoples through collaborative programs with private, open-access, nonprofit tribal colleges in the region. Would encourage community college districts to negotiate and implement articulation agreements with tribal colleges to assist indigenous peoples to gain access to nursing and teacher preparation programs.
Status: Failed in the Senate Education Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2227 (Judy Chu, D—Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require the Judicial Council to establish a court interpreters advisory panel to assist the council in performing its duties.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2302 (Assembly Judiciary Committee)
Purpose: To require the courts to provide interpreters in a wide variety of civil cases when a party to the proceeding is limited English proficient unless the party provides his or her own interpreter.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2420 (Ted Lieu, D—El Segundo)
Purpose: To require state agencies, when collecting demographic data, to specifically collect data for Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, Tongan, other Asians, and other Pacific Islanders, along with any other categories of people.
Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1160 (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To permit the issuance of limited-use driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants in conformance with federal law.
Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on August 9.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1267 (Gilbert Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish the Office of Immigrant Affairs to ensure the integration and civic participa-

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Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

tion of new citizens in the state. Would allow this office to enter contracts with nonprofit groups and fund their activities which help the integration of new citizens.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1329 (Elaine Alquist, D–San Jose)

Purpose: To encourage the opening of retail stores that sell healthy food in limited-income neighborhoods.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on August 9.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1405 (Nell Soto, D–Ontario)

Purpose: To establish the Task Force on Reimbursement for Language Services to develop and adopt a mechanism for seeking federal matching funds to pay for language assistance services, including oral interpretation services and translation of written materials, for the population that is limited English proficient and that is enrolled in Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1569 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)

Purpose: To extend eligibility for certain state and local benefits, including, but not limited to, refugee cash assistance, Medi-Cal, and employment social services, to qualified noncitizen victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes who are taking steps to qualify for certain federal benefits.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on August 9.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1575 (Joe Dunn, D–Garden Grove)

Purpose: To require schools to teach children about the unconstitutional deportation of US citizens and legal residents of Mexican American heritage during the 1930s.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on August 9.

LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 525 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)

Purpose: To strengthen laws regarding the reporting of emotional child abuse likely to do serious emotional damage to a child.

Status: Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1796 (Rudy Bermudez, D–Norwalk)

Purpose: To require people seeking a license to practice medicine to disclose any information about any sexual misconduct or harassment in his or her past.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2066 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)

Purpose: To require the Department of Corrections to create a Female Reform Master Plan and conduct a research study of victimization of female inmates and report on the study to the legislature. Also would require the department to develop a community-based female offender program comprised of a continuum of facilities for nonserious, nonviolent female inmates. The bill would require the department to secure 4,500 beds over two years in facilities that provide an array of services to promote successful reentry into society.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2084 (Betty Karnette, D–Long Beach)

Purpose: To make improvements in the laws relating to the operation of domestic abuse shelters.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2139 (Bonnie Garcia, R–El Centro)

Purpose: To require a police officer responding to a domestic violence complaint to inform the victim that he or she can ask the officer to request an emergency restraining order against the perpetrator.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2169 (Cindy Montanez, D–Mission Hills)

Purpose: To delete the sunset provision for a program designed to protect domestic violence victims from stalkers by keeping key information about the victims confidential. This protective program would continue indefinitely.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2251 (Noreen Evans, D–Santa Rosa)

Purpose: To prohibit anyone from posting on the Internet any information about the addresses, home phone numbers, or picture of any employee, volunteer (or their family members), or patient of a reproductive health services facility with the intent of causing bodily harm.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2317 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services to conduct the Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) Awareness Campaign,

using private donations to pay for it, to increase awareness and provide education to pregnant women and new mothers on postpartum mood and anxiety disorders.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2555 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)

Purpose: To increase the penalties for employers who pay employees of one sex less than those of the other sex for the same work.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2583 (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)

Purpose: To require pharmacies to post visible signs in their stores informing women of their rights to prescription drugs and devices that have been legally prescribed.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2695 (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow an employer to seek a restraining order against a person who committed domestic violence, when that domestic violence occurred in the workplace. Also would eliminate the fee for serving restraining orders in many cases.

Status: In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2781 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)

Purpose: To regulate the activities of private child support collection agencies in order to protect the adult seeking child support. Would also require the person who owes child support to pay half the cost of the private collection agency's fees.

Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor.

LLP Position: Support.

ACA 24 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)

Purpose: To increase the income tax on income above \$100,000 per year and require that the extra taxes taken in this way be used to support domestic violence shelters.

Status: Introduced. **LLP Position:** Support.

ACR 99 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)

Purpose: To declare the month of October 2006 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Status: In the Assembly inactive file.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1245 (Liz Figueroa, D–Fremont)

Purpose: To require that insurance companies or health care providers pay for the HPV test as part of the annual cervical cancer screening test.

Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.

LLP Position: Support.

Intersex Matters

Continued from page 1

SB 1260 (Deborah Ortiz, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To require that a doctor, before harvesting eggs from a woman for research purposes, obtain her written consent and provide her with information on health and consumer issues related to the process.

Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1402 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Under current law charges of rape cannot be prosecuted unless they have been reported within one year of the date on which the rape occurred or unless it has been corroborated by independent evidence. This bill would remove these impediments to prosecution of rape charges.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1491 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To prohibit any agency making grants to domestic abuse service providers from requiring, as a condition of the grant, the disclosure of identifying information about the clients they serve or requiring the use of computer programs or systems that require the disclosure of this information.

Status: Signed by the governor

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1743 (Debra Bowen, D-Redondo Beach)

Purpose: Under current law when a person petitions the court for a legal change of name to try to escape notice of an abuser, the petition and the court's order to show cause must be published. The proposed new name of the petitioner is usually in these documents. This bill would allow the name to remain confidential except that it will be placed on file with the secretary of state.

Status: Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1745 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To ban employment and housing discrimination against the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.


Status: In the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SJR 19 (Elaine Alquist, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To urge Congress and the president to uphold the Roe v. Wade decision of the US Supreme Court.

Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support. 

It has traditionally been considered a medical and social emergency if a newborn child's sex is ambiguous. From the 1950s onwards, infant genital surgery to "normalize" the physical appearance of intersex children was part of an increasing medicalization of intersex lives. Much of this pathologizing was driven by the belief that if intersex children were not surgically normalized, they would be more likely to grow up homosexual or experience gender identity problems.

Many of us identify as female, male, or intersex in our sex. Some of us are gay, bisexual, lesbian, or heterosexual in our sexual orientation, and our gender is often expressed as transgender, intergender, androgyne, gender queer, or standard male and female.

Near the end of the 20th century, intersex people started to work to end the social shame and secrecy surrounding our lives. On a personal level, this struggle often involved searching for old infant medical records and confronting parents about the past. Groups supporting intersex people emerged via the Internet. Some groups focus on the needs of people with a particular intersex condition. There are support groups for people with Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS), Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser Syndrome (MRKH), congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), and Klinefelter's Syndrome. These are all variations of the basic condition called "intersex."

There are also noncondition-specific support and advocacy groups that seek to systematically change the social conditions that promote shame and secrecy in the first place. The Intersex Society of North America (isna.org), founded by Cheryl Chase in 1993, is the oldest noncondition-specific group in the United States. Examples of newer groups include Bodies Like Ours (bodieslikeours.org), run by Betsy Driver; the Intersex Initiative (ipdx.org), shaped by Emi Koyama; and Organization Intersex International (intersexualite.org), created by Curtis Hinkle.


Economic Issue

Continued from page 3


helped them get off of public assistance and sustain their families independently.

AB 2466 is a good bill because it helps CalWORKs participants sustain savings over the long term. Including employer-sponsored retirement and education-savings accounts from asset limits punishes people who need money in the short term.

According to Daucher, "When cash assistance is combined with financial education and incentives to save, more families can be successful in permanently escaping poverty."

AB 2466 is sound legislation because it allows families who need money now to save money for their long-term financial security. Please urge your senator to vote for this bill. 

Many of these groups see the problems faced by intersex people as human rights violations. The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) has also been in the forefront of the effort to address intersex issues. In 2004 the commission held a groundbreaking public hearing on intersex lives that included public and written testimony by many intersex people from around the world and their allies. In 2005 the HRC released its intersex report titled, "A Human Rights Investigation into the Medical 'Normalization' of Intersex People." This work represents the first major governmental human rights investigation of intersex lives. A DVD or VHS tape of the hearing is available through www.isna.org/videos/sf_hrc_hearing, and a copy of the Human Rights Commission's intersex report can be downloaded at www.isna.org/files/SFHRC_Intersex_Report.pdf (928K).

We hope to educate the California legislature about these issues and are thankful that LLP is doing its part by drawing attention to them. 

Women's Issue

Continued from page 3

The bill would require CDCR to do the following:

- ♦ Create a Female Offender Master Plan.
- ♦ As part of that Master Plan, create gender-specific policies and practices for female offenders.
- ♦ Develop a community-based program that would include a variety of facilities and programs to assist female offenders in making the transition successfully from prison to the community. The total number of beds in the community-based program would not exceed 4,500. The community programs would initially be in Alameda, Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties.

Important components of the policies and practices to be developed would focus on principles summarized in the National Institute of Corrections report, "Gender-Responsive Strategies," and on gender-focused education developed by the Office of Correctional Education.


The strategies would do the following:

- ♦ Acknowledge that gender makes a difference
- ♦ Create an environment based on safety, respect, and dignity
- ♦ Develop policies, practices, and programs that are relational and promote healthy connections to children
- ♦ Address substance abuse, trauma, and mental health issues through comprehensive, integrated, culturally relevant services, and appropriate supervision
- ♦ Provide women with opportunities to improve their socioeconomic conditions
- ♦ Establish a system of community supervision and reentry with comprehensive, collaborative services.

The education would include specific programs designed to address gender-specific issues and provide women inmates with tools to do the following:

- ♦ Identify activities and behaviors that would improve the physical and emotional health of women inmates and the health of their families, particularly their children
- ♦ Improve social and life skills to increase the chances for female inmates to obtain and keep employment, promoting self-sufficiency
- ♦ Analyze and improve the parenting skills and techniques of female inmates, with special attention being given to single parenting
- ♦ Assist female inmates to realize the importance of family, literacy, and developing positive and proactive attitudes and behaviors toward their own and their children's education
- ♦ Teach female inmates proven, transferable anger and stress management techniques
- ♦ Teach female inmates to recognize the characteristics of both healthy and toxic relationships and to formulate a personal plan

This bill is sponsored by the California Commission on the Status of Women and is supported by a wide variety of community-based organizations, including California Women Lawyers and California NOW.

The bill has passed the Assembly and the Senate Committee on Public Safety. It must pass the Senate Appropriations Committee by August 18, and the Senate floor by the end of August. Please ask your senator to support AB 2066 when it comes up for a vote. 

Why the State Budget Matters

Continued from page 1

Office of AIDS. The additional staff will be working on an expansion of the CARE-HIPP Program, which pays the health insurance premiums of people disabled by HIV and who are at risk of losing their health insurance. All of the above budget items were included in the budget signed by the governor.

Many people with AIDS, some people with other diseases, and many limited-income seniors receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) as their main source of income. Usually each January they get a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the amount received each year. Legislation passed last year would have delayed the 2007 COLA until April 2007. Early this year the governor proposed delaying that COLA until July 2007. However, the budget he signed allows the adjustment to occur in January 2007 after all.

Lambda Letters and other advocates supported a budget item that would, within a few years, assure that all children in California have health insurance. We also supported an item to supplement the health program budgets of several counties. These counties often have long waiting lists of people who need help covering their medical costs. This budget item could have eliminated those waiting lists. Unfortunately, both of these items were dropped from the budget before it was sent to the governor.

However, the budget he signed does increase resources for California's Healthy Families Program. Currently, there are roughly 428,000 children who are eligible for health care coverage under Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program. But because far from all of them are actually receiving that care, the budget provides \$22.6 million to counties to do outreach to find and enroll qualified children. An additional \$9.6 million is provided to improve online enrollment in the Healthy Families Program.

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LGBTI Issue

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Education

Education did well in the budget. There was an overall increase of \$3 billion for kindergarten through high school education. Schools whose majority of students are on limited incomes or speak limited English have exceptional challenges in teaching their students. The new budget increases economic impact aid to these schools by \$350 million. A total of \$1 billion of economic impact aid is now being provided to these schools.

The budget increased funding in several ways to assist children who have limited English skills, usually from homes where English is not the primary language spoken. It included \$20 million for help identifying the best way to teach English to those with limited English, \$30 million for instructional materials for them, and \$25 million to train the teachers of English learners.


In a novel provision, the legislature deleted all funding for the staff of the Board of Education. The legislature had been urging the board to ask textbook publishers to include more materials needed specifically for English learners. Because the board refused to do so, the legislature stripped the funding for board staff to get their attention. The issue is being worked out now in separate legislation.

Public Assistance

CalWORKs is the primary public assistance program in California that helps people on limited incomes. It is a joint federal state program. The governor proposed to reduce funding to the counties for this program. He also suggested that the state spend the least amount allowable under federal regulations. This could have devastated people dependent on the program. However, the budget eventually signed by the governor actually allocates considerably more than the federal minimum for the program, and allocates \$140 million to counties for the various services provided by CalWORKs.

adopted a Model Curriculum for Human Rights and Genocide that is available to all schools. The California Department of Education has also posted model policies on its website concerning the prevention of bullying and hate-motivated behavior. None of these programs *require* tolerance education.


That is why AB 1056 is so important: No student should have to experience a high school teacher's open hatred against a specific group.

Please ask Governor Schwarzenegger not to let us down again. It is important that students learn how to respect one another based on their differences. 

Language Assistance

Many people with limited English skills find it difficult to get justice in our courts because they don't understand what is being said. Some can afford to hire interpreters to translate for them, but many cannot afford to do so. The budget sent to the governor contained \$10 million to pay for interpreters for people with limited English abilities who need that assistance in court. Sadly, the governor removed this spending from the budget before signing it.

The parents of many schoolchildren do not speak English. Yet there are many documents that schools must send to parents to explain school programs and policies. The Clearinghouse of Multilingual Documents was established to create translations, into many languages, of standard documents that are routinely sent to parents. This year's budget included a total of \$667,000 for the translation and printing of these documents for use by school districts.

Finally, the budget contained two more important provisions. It provided \$1.5 million in increased funds for enforcement of the minimum wage and overtime wages laws. It also included another \$1.5 million for the Naturalization Services Program to help immigrants obtain citizenship. 

Time Off for Good Behavior

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

The Lambda Letters Alert team was very busy in June. Sometimes they got as many as three alerts a day. There were a lot of good bills out there, however, and a few bad ones, so that's why we had to send out mail on as many of those bills as possible if we hoped to affect their outcome. I am very grateful for those of you who worked so hard on these bills.


The legislature was in recess for most of July. They returned in August, however, and that will mean more legislative alerts as committee hearings get underway.

In case you're wondering, we have really delivered quite a lot of mail. In the first six months of 2006, the LLP Alert team and other LLP members and friends sent over 149,000 letters and e-mails to elected officials.

All the bills we opposed were defeated and most of those we supported have been approved in every vote taken on them so far.

To see the outcomes on the bills we worked on, feel free to visit our website at lambdaletters.org. Click on Legislative Update to see the current status of each bill. The status appears to the right of each bill's description.

Again, for those of you who have been helping, please know that I am deeply grateful for your efforts. Working together, we are making this a better world.

We have lots of work to do between now and the end of August when the legislature closes for the year. 



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